

ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND
WORKING FAMILIES

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the urgent need to provide immediate economic stimulus to this country in the form of a payroll tax rebate for working families.

The United States is facing a crisis, and it is not merely a security crisis. There is a visible, pressing need for economic stimulus and worker relief. We should move quickly to jumpstart the economy by putting money into the hands of the tax paying lower wage workers that are more likely to spend it immediately. My bill, the Working Families Tax Rebate Act will do just that.

This bill will provide an immediate payroll tax rebate of up to \$300 to people who didn't benefit from the tax cut signed into law in June. The dramatic decrease in travel and tourism not only affects those workers employed by the airline industry.

Working men and women in the hospitality industry and service sector are also facing massive layoffs. These people need immediate help with buying their groceries, preparing for the holidays, and paying their heating bills. Our shopkeepers need consumers back in the stores.

I urge my colleagues to support HR 3015. Because this country needs economic stimulus now.

ANNIVERSARY OF SALEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize a most auspicious event in the life of Salem Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio. On Sunday, November 4, 2001, the congregation will celebrate its 160th anniversary. Such an occasion is truly a monument to faith.

Salem is Toledo's first and oldest Lutheran church, having been founded in 1842 in one of Toledo's most historic neighborhoods, the near North End. Originally made up of the German, Greek and Syrian immigrants in the neighborhood at that time, the church's congregation changed through the years and remains reflective of the diversity of its neighborhood yet today. Particularly in its second century of life, Salem Lutheran Church has been a place of constancy in a neighborhood and for a people who welcome many newcomers. Comfort is found within its walls for local people, but also those who are poor and often beaten down by serious struggles of life. The church's building houses not only a place of worship but also provides a place for its neighbors to come together to eat and for other community services and church-based programs benefiting them.

Salem's pastor and parishioners have been active in the Toledo Area Lutheran Coalition,

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

a cluster of churches dedicated to a cooperative relationship. It is a teaching parish, serving as a host site for Synod youth interns and seminary interns several times since 1994. In the words of its current pastor, today "Salem serves as a model for central city multicultural ministry, offering an ecumenical ministry site . . . to grow in service." She describes the congregation's move toward the future noting, "there is a sense of gratitude we are still here, an awareness of the resurrection power of God, and a renewed sense of mission with the people of our neighborhood."

Following Christ's admonition, whatsoever you do to the least among us, that you do unto Me, the congregation of Salem Lutheran Church flowered in the neighborhood in which these He described have lived. In its past, its present, and into its future, Salem Lutheran Church will always be a place of faith, hope, and love, and a testament to Christ's Word and the perseverance of His followers. As today's congregation reflects on its past and is inspired by its future, I am pleased to offer my voice to the chorus of congratulations on its 160th anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR COMBATING TERRORISM ACT OF 2001

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to establish the National Office for Combating Terrorism within the Executive Office of the President. With more than three dozen different federal agencies tasked with countering terrorism, an umbrella agency with responsibility for coordination and communication is sorely needed. It is not enough for our government to be united in word. We must also be united in deed. If we are truly fighting a sustained and long-term battle against terrorism, then we must produce an efficient and effective system to wage a full-scale war.

This bill, the House companion to legislation introduced by my friend and colleague, Senator BOB GRAHAM, creates the National Office for Combating Terrorism under the direction of the President. This office has the responsibility for developing a comprehensive national strategy for the prevention of, and response to, acts of terrorism. This encompassing strategy will be known as the "National Terrorism Prevention and Response Strategy." Priorities must be set, and clear and effective policies, goals and objectives must be delineated. This office will coordinate, oversee, and evaluate the implementation of this strategy, which will include joint efforts with both state and local governments to ensure clear communications. The National Office for Combating Terrorism will also have the responsibility for developing an annual budget for the national strategy, including the budgets of departments and agencies within the National Foreign Intelligence Program that deal with international terrorism. However, military programs and projects will not be incorporated into this budget. Per-

sonnel will be appointed by the President with proper and timely Senate confirmation.

Mr. Speaker, the Bush Administration continually emphasizes the multifaceted front of this war on terrorism. Our military forces are stronger and better trained than the terrorist forces. Our economic livelihood is light years ahead of theirs, our intelligence network is more capable, and our resolve is more powerful. On all fronts of this war we have the upper hand. So let us make sure that our organization is more effective than theirs. Our counter terrorist agencies are making the right moves. Let us ensure that they all move in the same direction. I sincerely hope that my colleagues will work with me to ensure the passage of this important legislation. Thank you.

THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the 41st anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus. On October 1, 1960, Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

Over the last decades, Cyprus and the United States have established close political, economic and social ties, developing a valued friendship. Both countries gained their independence from Great Britain, and now each country celebrates the anniversary of that independence as their national holiday. More significantly, Cyprus and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, fundamental human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under law.

This year, the September 11th terrorist attacks cast a heavy shadow over the celebrations for Cyprus Independence Day, as the shock and grief continues to be felt. The leaders and the people of Cyprus have expressed their abhorrence and their strong condemnation for the terrorists and those who support them, while voicing their solidarity with the American people. In a moment of true friendship, the Republic of Cyprus declared September 14th as a Day of Mourning for the victims. Flags were flown at half-mast, flowers were laid at the American Embassy in the capital of Nicosia, while high-ranking officials and ordinary people signed a book of condolences.

The government of Cyprus has pledged to cooperate fully with the Bush Administration in the battle against terrorism. Cyprus shares our belief that the horrendous act of violence on September 11th did not constitute just an offensive against America, it was an assault against democracy and freedom. Cypriots do not stand indifferent and passive in responding to heinous acts that target our sense of security, our civil liberties and our faith in the democratic process. Having achieved its independence after a bitter fight to uphold freedom and democracy, Cyprus understands that